IDW
THE TRANSFORMERS
SPOTLIGHT
COVER A
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JAZZ

IDW
COVER B
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THE TRANSFORMERS
SPOTLIGHT
JAZZ
MEISTER

For most, the word "AUTOBOT" is simply a faction or title. But for one individual, it is a way of life, defining his every thought and action. Always there to lift dampened spirits, he has hope in even the darkest of times...

...his name is JAZZ.

THE TRANSFORMERS: SPOTLIGHT: JAZZ

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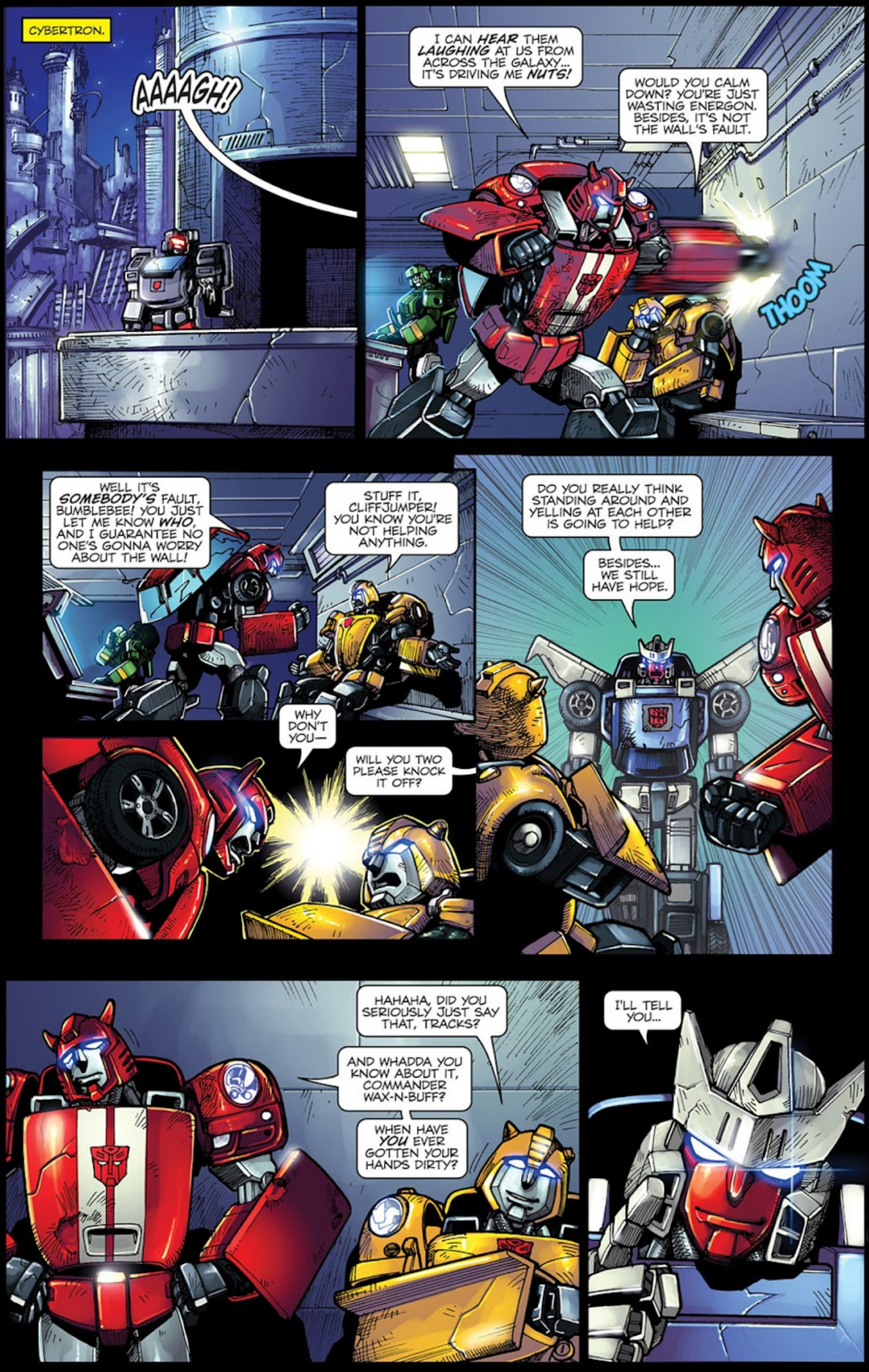
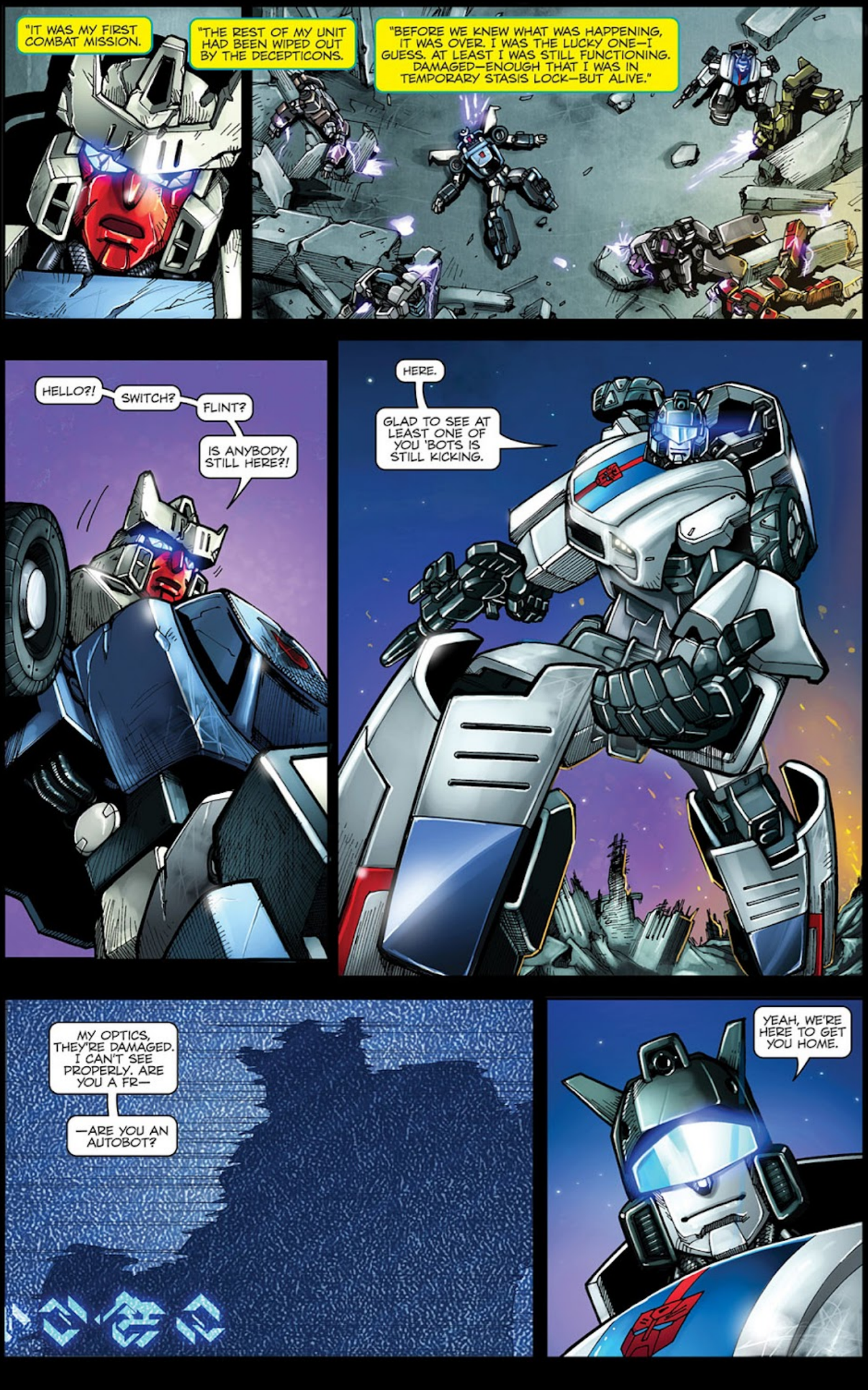
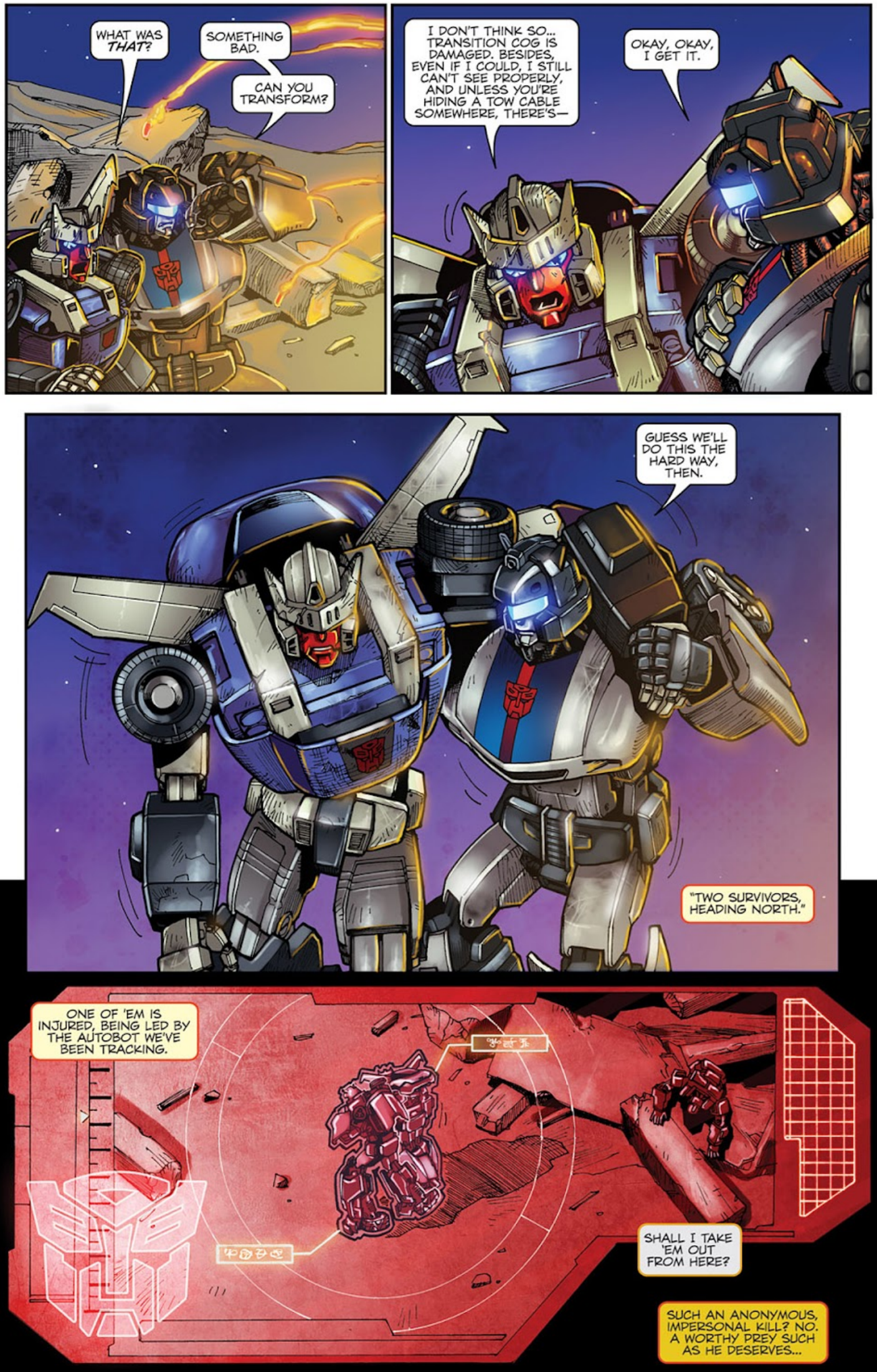
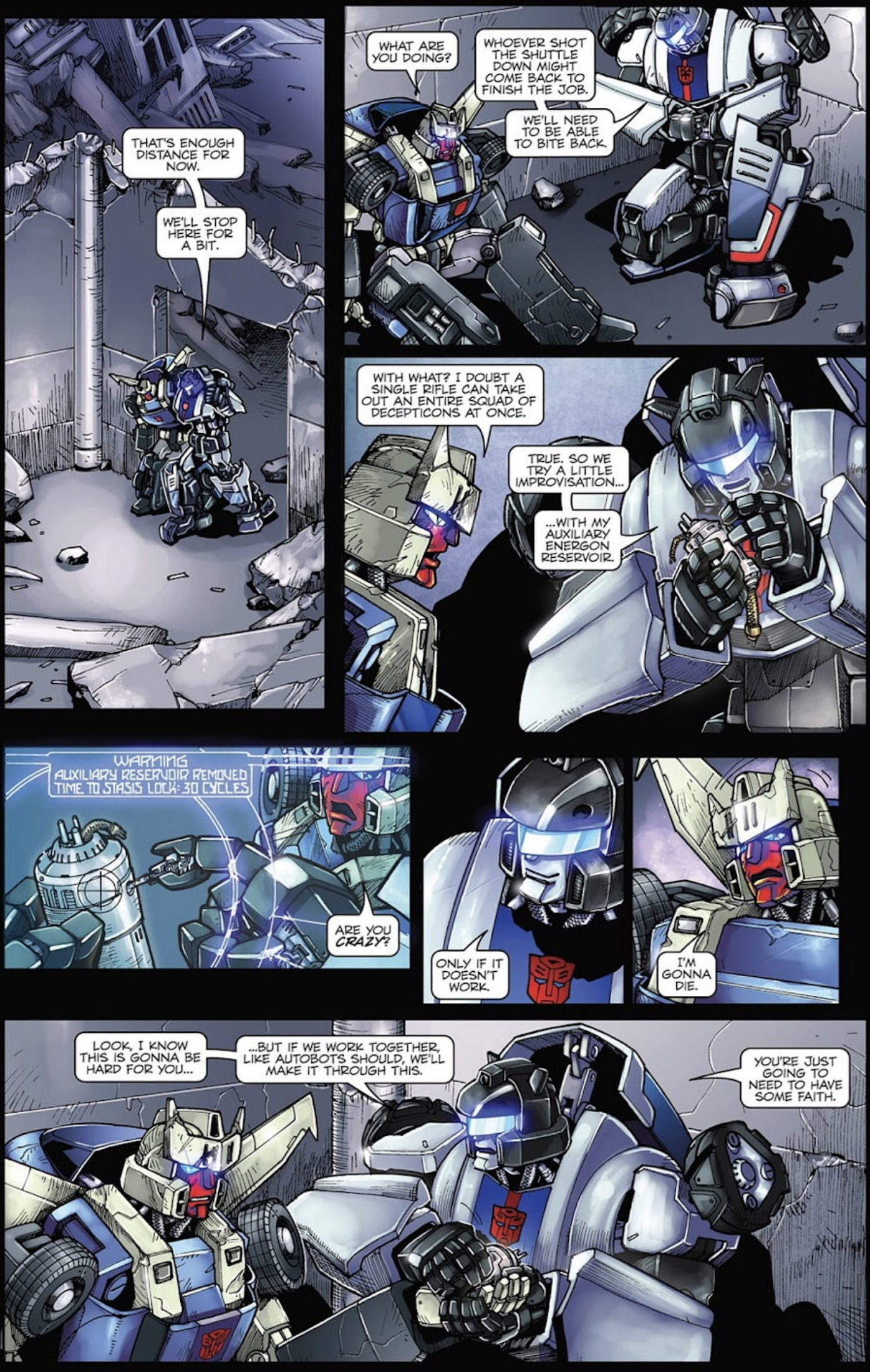

CYBERTRON.
AAAAGH!
I CAN HEAR THEM LAUGHING AT US FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY... IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!
WOULD YOU CALM DOWN? YOU'RE JUST WASTING ENERGON. BESIDES, IT'S NOT THE WALL'S FAULT.
THOOM
WELL IT'S SOMEBODY'S FAULT, BUMBLEBEE! YOU JUST LET ME KNOW WHO, AND I GUARANTEE NO ONE'S GONNA WORRY ABOUT THE WALL!
STUFF IT, CLIFFJUMPER! YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT HELPING ANYTHING.
WHY DON'T YOU—
WILL YOU TWO PLEASE KNOCK IT OFF?
DO YOU REALLY THINK STANDING AROUND AND YELLING AT EACH OTHER IS GOING TO HELP?
BESIDES... WE STILL HAVE HOPE.
HAHAHA, DID YOU SERIOUSLY JUST SAY THAT, TRACKS?
AND WHADDA YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, COMMANDER WAX-N-BUFF?
WHEN HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN YOUR HANDS DIRTY?
I'LL TELL YOU...

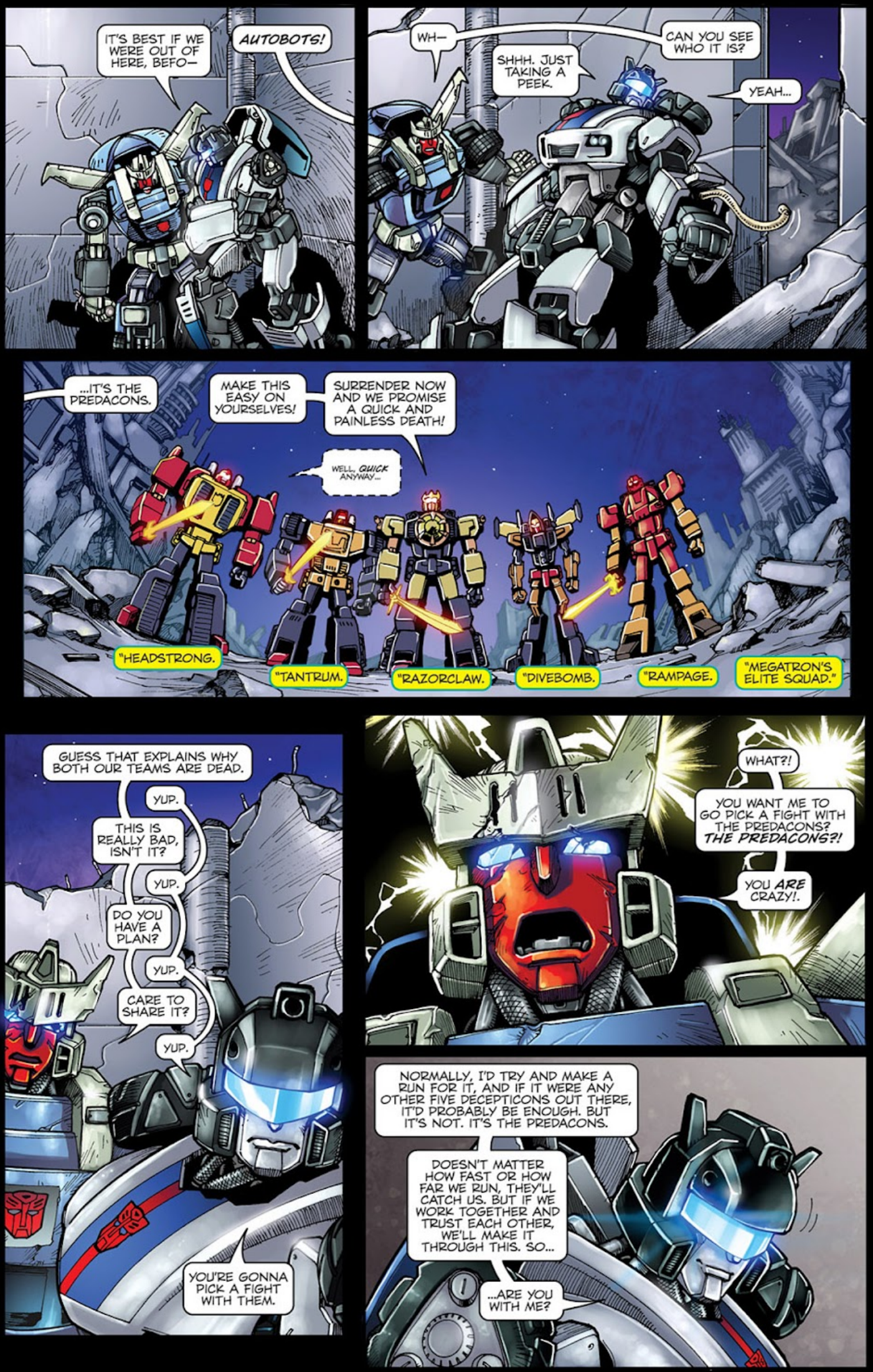

"IT WAS MY FIRST COMBAT MISSION.
"THE REST OF MY UNIT HAD BEEN WIPED OUT BY THE DECEPTICONS.
"BEFORE WE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, IT WAS OVER. I WAS THE LUCKY ONE—I GUESS. AT LEAST I WAS STILL FUNCTIONING. DAMAGED—ENOUGH THAT I WAS IN TEMPORARY STASIS LOCK—BUT ALIVE."
HELLO?!
SWITCH?
FLINT?
IS ANYBODY STILL HERE?!
HERE.
GLAD TO SEE AT LEAST ONE OF YOU 'BOTS IS STILL KICKING.
MY OPTICS, THEY'RE DAMAGED. I CAN'T SEE PROPERLY. ARE YOU A FR—
—ARE YOU AN AUTOBOT?
YEAH, WE'RE HERE TO GET YOU HOME.

TRANSPORT, WHENEVER YOU 'BOTS ARE READY, WE'VE GOT OUR TICKETS.
"THINGS STARTED TO LOOK UP..."
COPY THAT.
PREP FOR PICK—
SP-BLAAM
"...IT DIDN'T LAST."
FA-BOOM


WHAT WAS *THAT*?
SOMETHING BAD.
CAN YOU TRANSFORM?
I DON'T THINK SO... TRANSITION COG IS DAMAGED. BESIDES, EVEN IF I COULD, I STILL CAN'T SEE PROPERLY, AND UNLESS YOU'RE HIDING A TOW CABLE SOMEWHERE, THERE'S—
OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT.
GUESS WE'LL DO THIS THE HARD WAY, THEN.
"TWO SURVIVORS, HEADING NORTH."
ONE OF 'EM IS INJURED, BEING LED BY THE AUTOBOT WE'VE BEEN TRACKING.
SHALL I TAKE 'EM OUT FROM HERE?
SUCH AN ANONYMOUS, IMPERSONAL KILL? NO. A WORTHY PREY SUCH AS HE DESERVES...

...A MORE HANDS-ON APPROACH.


THAT'S ENOUGH DISTANCE FOR NOW.
WE'LL STOP HERE FOR A BIT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHOEVER SHOT THE SHUTTLE DOWN MIGHT COME BACK TO FINISH THE JOB.
WE'LL NEED TO BE ABLE TO BITE BACK.
WITH WHAT? I DOUBT A SINGLE RIFLE CAN TAKE OUT AN ENTIRE SQUAD OF DECEPTICONS AT ONCE.
TRUE. SO WE TRY A LITTLE IMPROVISATION...
...WITH MY AUXILIARY ENERGON RESERVOIR.
WARNING
AUXILIARY RESERVOIR REMOVED
TIME TO STASIS LOCK: 30 CYCLES
ARE YOU CRAZY?
ONLY IF IT DOESN'T WORK.
I'M GONNA DIE.
LOOK, I KNOW THIS IS GONNA BE HARD FOR YOU...
...BUT IF WE WORK TOGETHER, LIKE AUTOBOTS SHOULD, WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO NEED TO HAVE SOME FAITH.


IT'S BEST IF WE WERE OUT OF HERE, BEFO—
AUTOBOTS!
WH—
SHHH. JUST TAKING A PEEK.
CAN YOU SEE WHO IT IS?
YEAH...
...IT'S THE PREDACONS.
MAKE THIS EASY ON YOURSELVES!
SURRENDER NOW AND WE PROMISE A QUICK AND PAINLESS DEATH!
WELL, QUICK ANYWAY...
"HEADSTRONG.
"TANTRUM.
"RAZORCLAW.
"DIVEBOMB.
"RAMPAGE.
"MEGATRON'S ELITE SQUAD."
GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHY BOTH OUR TEAMS ARE DEAD.
YUP.
THIS IS REALLY BAD, ISN'T IT?
YUP.
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?
YUP.
CARE TO SHARE IT?
YUP.
YOU'RE GONNA PICK A FIGHT WITH THEM.
WHAT?!
YOU WANT ME TO GO PICK A FIGHT WITH THE PREDACONS? THE PREDACONS?!
YOU ARE CRAZY!.
NORMALLY, I'D TRY AND MAKE A RUN FOR IT, AND IF IT WERE ANY OTHER FIVE DECEPTICONS OUT THERE, IT'D PROBABLY BE ENOUGH. BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S THE PREDACONS.
DOESN'T MATTER HOW FAST OR HOW FAR WE RUN, THEY'LL CATCH US. BUT IF WE WORK TOGETHER AND TRUST EACH OTHER, WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS. SO...
...ARE YOU WITH ME?

WHY ARE WE WAITING?
TEMPER YOUR EAGERNESS.
YEAH! LETS JUST STARTING BLOWING STUFF UP, WE'RE BOUND TO HIT THEM EVENTUALLY.
WE'RE WAITING BECAUSE OUR ADVERSARIES DESERVE A CHANCE TO SHOW SOME HON—
F-ZAP
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, YOU TERRORCON REJECTS!
"I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY OWN VOCAL PROCESSOR. I WAS ALONE AGAINST THE MOST FEARED DECEPTICON SQUAD, AND I WAS INSULTING THEM.
"MAYBE I WAS MORE DAMAGED THAN I THOUGHT.
"THING IS..."
YOU GREASY LITTLE—
FOOLISH AUTOBOT. WE HAVE KILLED FELLOW DECEPTICONS FOR LESS THAN THAT.
I WAS PLANING ON BEING LENIENT ON YOU, AND SAVE ALL OUR FUN FOR YOUR FRIEND.
BUT AS YOU'VE SO ELOQUENTLY THROWN THE GAUNTLET DOWN, I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO—
AACK!
"...I WASN'T ALONE."

K-SLASHT
YOU PIECE OF AUTOBOT SC—
KL-KRUNG

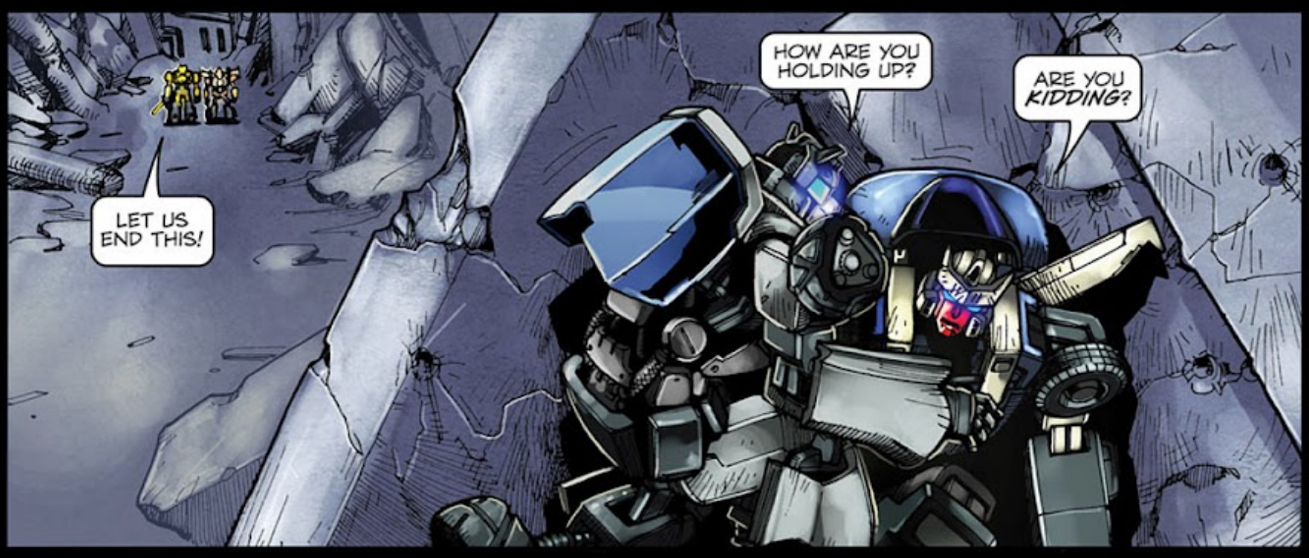
OKAY, I'M COMING IN FAST. BRACE YOURSELF, BE READY TO GRAB HOLD TIGHT...
...AND TRUST ME.
AAAAAH!
COME BACK HERE, YOU COWARDS!
NO! YOU FOOLS!
IT'S A TR—

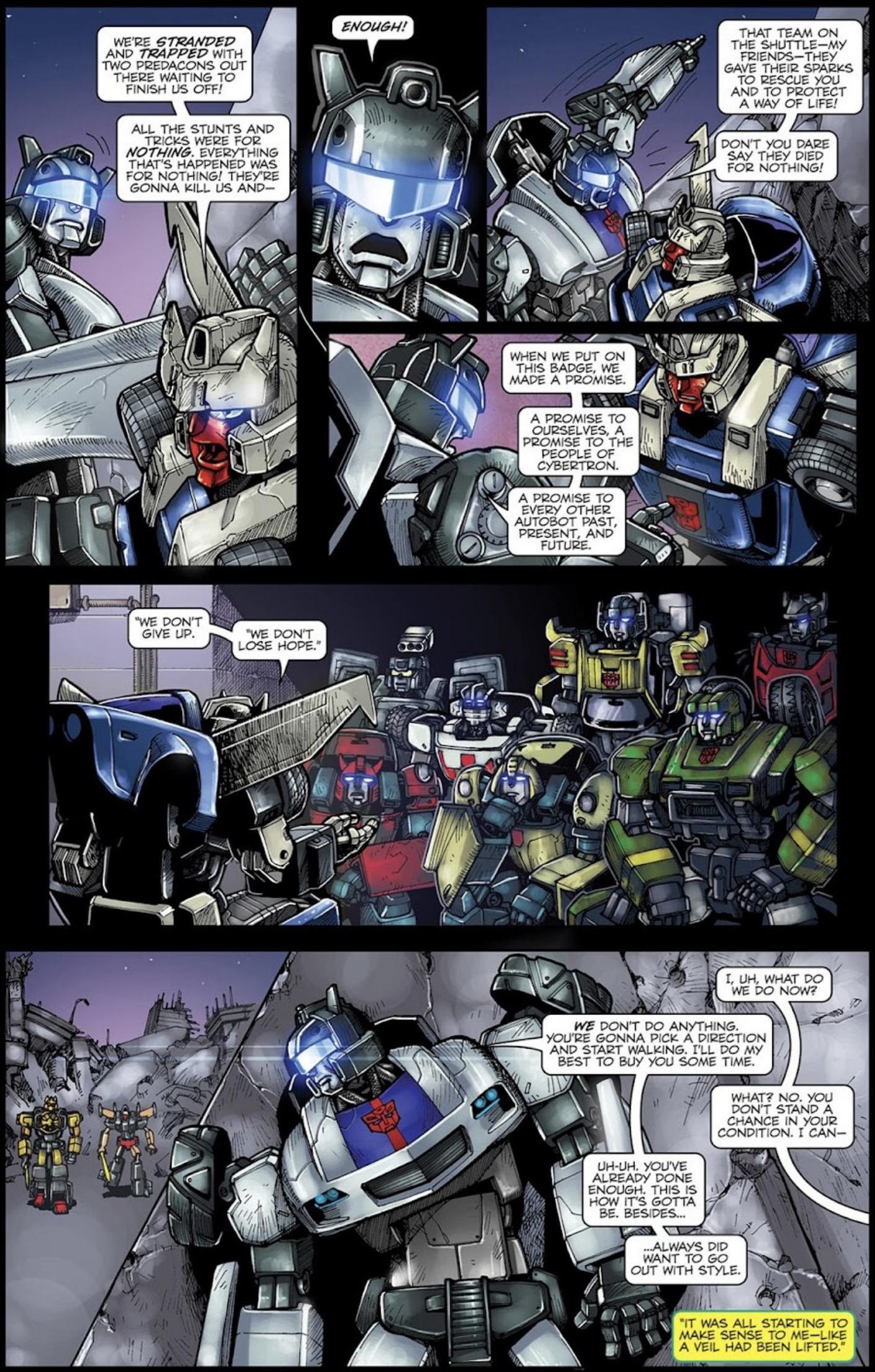
B-BLAAMM

HANG ON! WE'RE NOT OUT OF THIS YET!

THERE ARE STILL AT LEAST TWO OF THOSE 'CONS LEFT.

I HAVE TO ADMIT, AUTOBOT. I AM IMPRESSED. I CAN'T THINK OF THE LAST TIME SOMEONE GOT THE BEST OF A PREDACON, LET ALONE THREE OF THEM. YOU HAVE MY RESPECT.
BUT I HAVE RUN OUT OF PATIENCE, AND YOU HAVE RUN OUT OF PLACES TO HIDE.


LET US END THIS!
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
ARE YOU KIDDING?


WE'RE STRANDED AND TRAPPED WITH TWO PREDACONS OUT THERE WAITING TO FINISH US OFF!
ALL THE STUNTS AND TRICKS WERE FOR NOTHING. EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED WAS FOR NOTHING! THEY'RE GONNA KILL US AND—
ENOUGH!
THAT TEAM ON THE SHUTTLE—MY FRIENDS—THEY GAVE THEIR SPARKS TO RESCUE YOU AND TO PROTECT A WAY OF LIFE!
DON'T YOU DARE SAY THEY DIED FOR NOTHING!
WHEN WE PUT ON THIS BADGE, WE MADE A PROMISE.
A PROMISE TO OURSELVES, A PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE OF CYBERTRON.
A PROMISE TO EVERY OTHER AUTOBOT PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.
"WE DON'T GIVE UP.
"WE DON'T LOSE HOPE."
I, UH, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE DON'T DO ANYTHING. YOU'RE GONNA PICK A DIRECTION AND START WALKING. I'LL DO MY BEST TO BUY YOU SOME TIME.
WHAT? NO. YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE IN YOUR CONDITION. I CAN—
UH-UH. YOU'VE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH. THIS IS HOW IT'S GOTTA BE. BESIDES...
...ALWAYS DID WANT TO GO OUT WITH STYLE.
"IT WAS ALL STARTING TO MAKE SENSE TO ME—LIKE A VEIL HAD BEEN LIFTED."

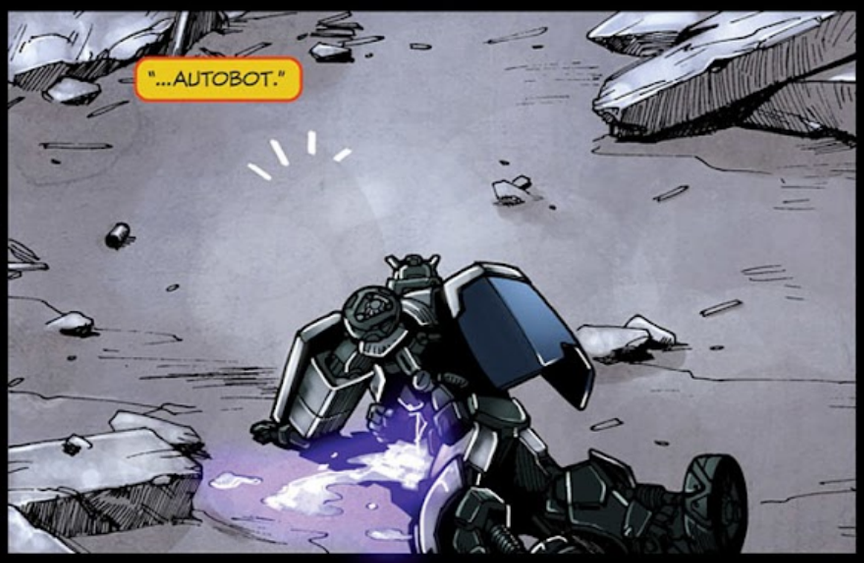
"I WAS SEEING CLEARER THAN I EVER HAD BEFORE.
"PUTTING YOUR SPARK ON THE LINE FOR YOUR TEAMMATES. DOING WHATEVER IT TOOK TO PROTECT LIFE.
"THIS IS WHAT IT MEANT TO BE AN AUTOBOT...
"...AND I WAS NEVER GOING TO FORGET IT."
AGHUNH!
KLANG
KKRUMMMBLE
HEH, YOUR FRIEND HAS A WARRIOR'S HEART AFTER ALL.
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'RE MADE—
"I WAS OFFLINE, SO I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT."

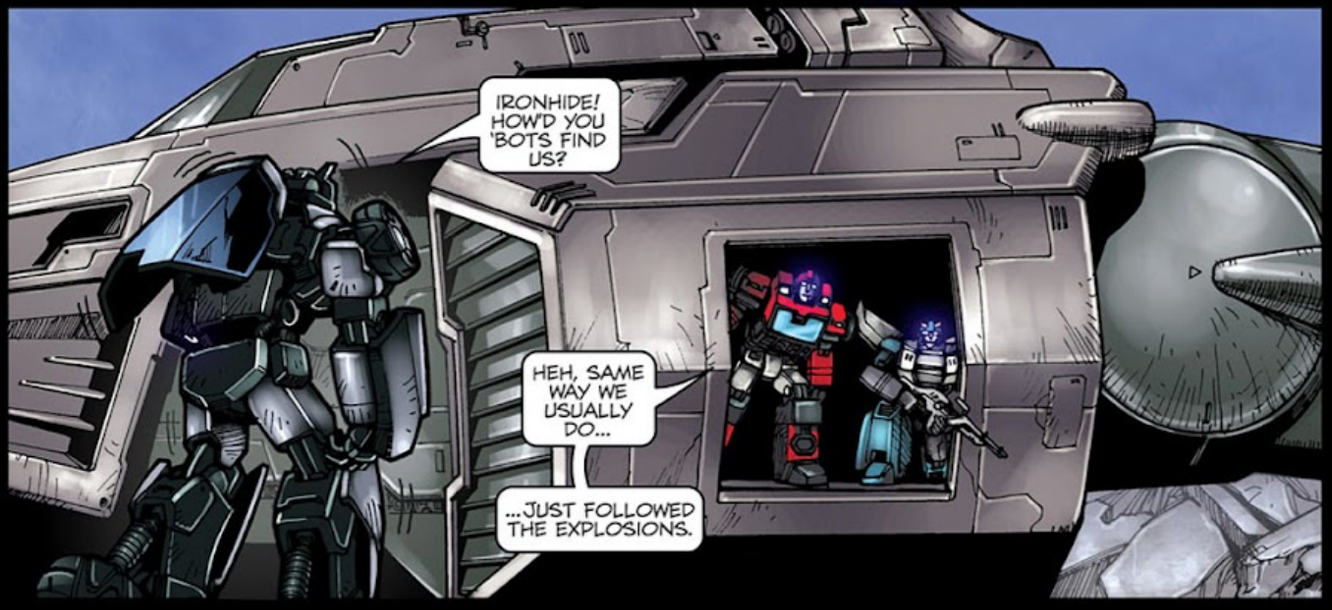
WHAM
KRAK
OOF!
KLANG

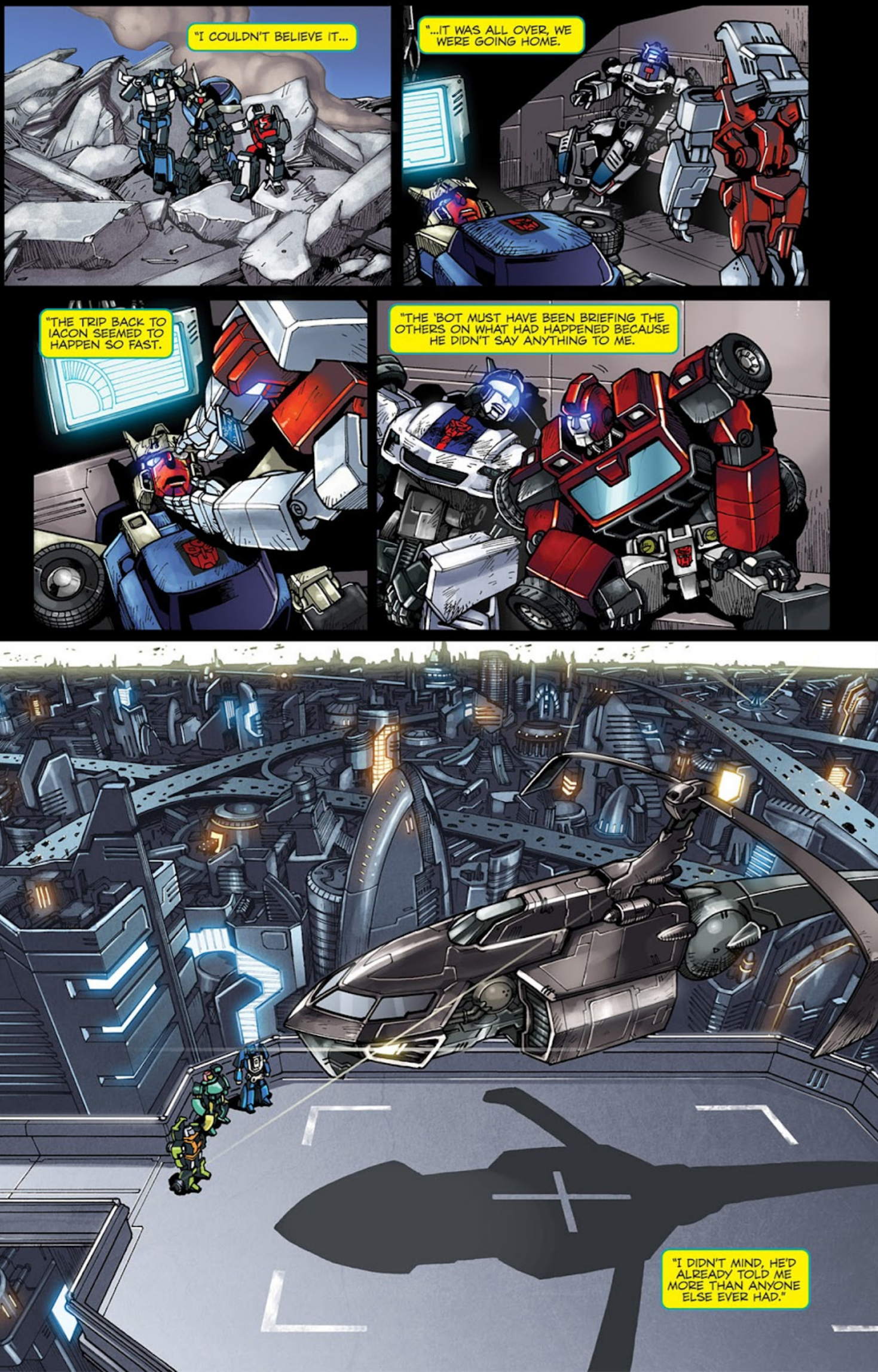
THOOM
SMASH
THAP
"BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT RAZORCLAW WAS BEING TAUGHT A HARD LESSON."

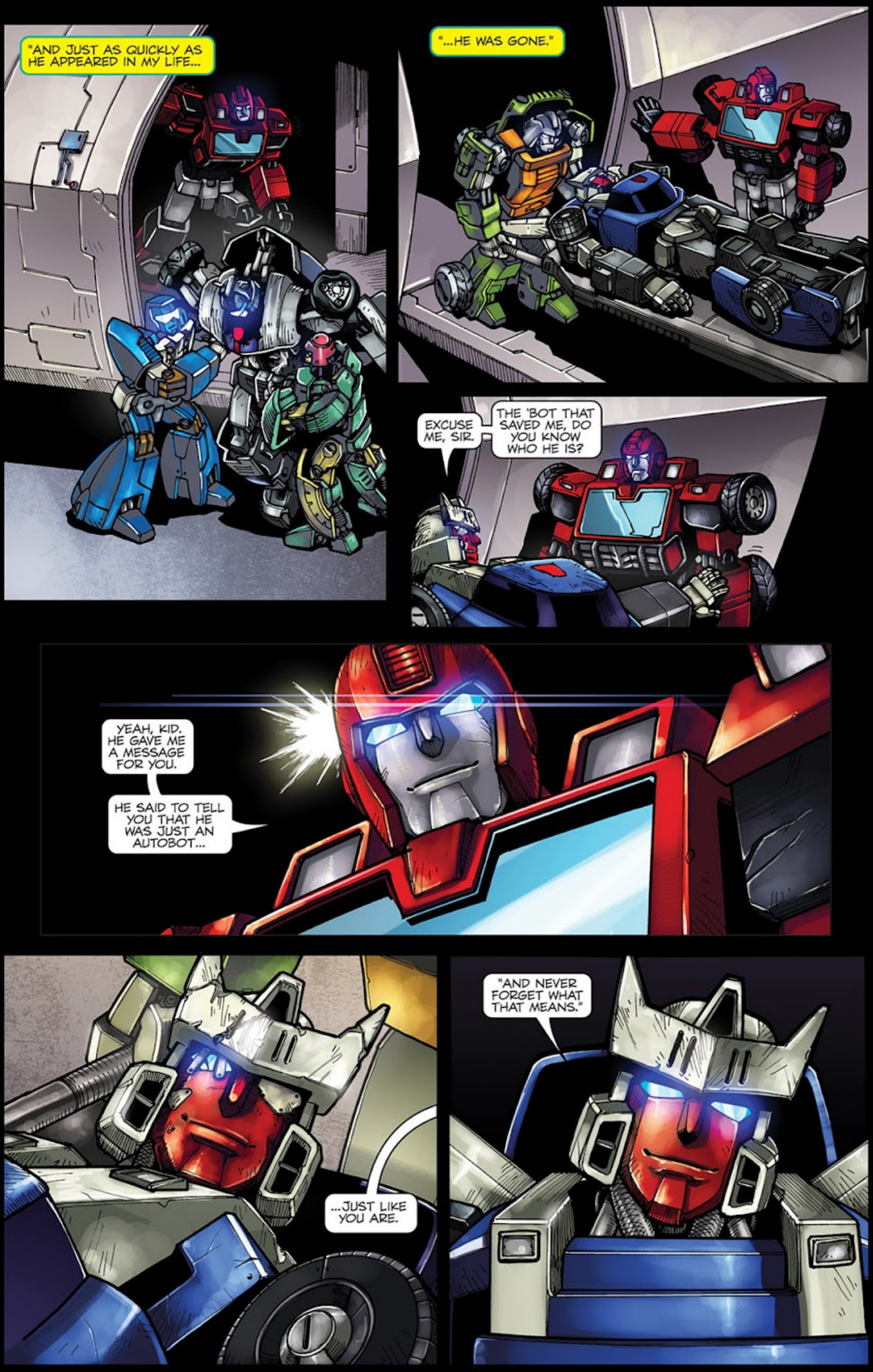
POWER LEVEL CRITICAL: TIME TO STASIS LOCK: 8 CYCLES
UHHNN...
SHRIPPP
SP-TOW

GNNN. ANOTHER TIME...


"...AUTOBOT."


IRONHIDE! HOW'D YOU 'BOTS FIND US?
HEH, SAME WAY WE USUALLY DO...
...JUST FOLLOWED THE EXPLOSIONS.


"I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT...
"...IT WAS ALL OVER, WE WERE GOING HOME.
"THE TRIP BACK TO IACON SEEMED TO HAPPEN SO FAST.
"THE 'BOT MUST HAVE BEEN BRIEFING THE OTHERS ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED BECAUSE HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO ME.
"I DIDN'T MIND, HE'D ALREADY TOLD ME MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE EVER HAD."

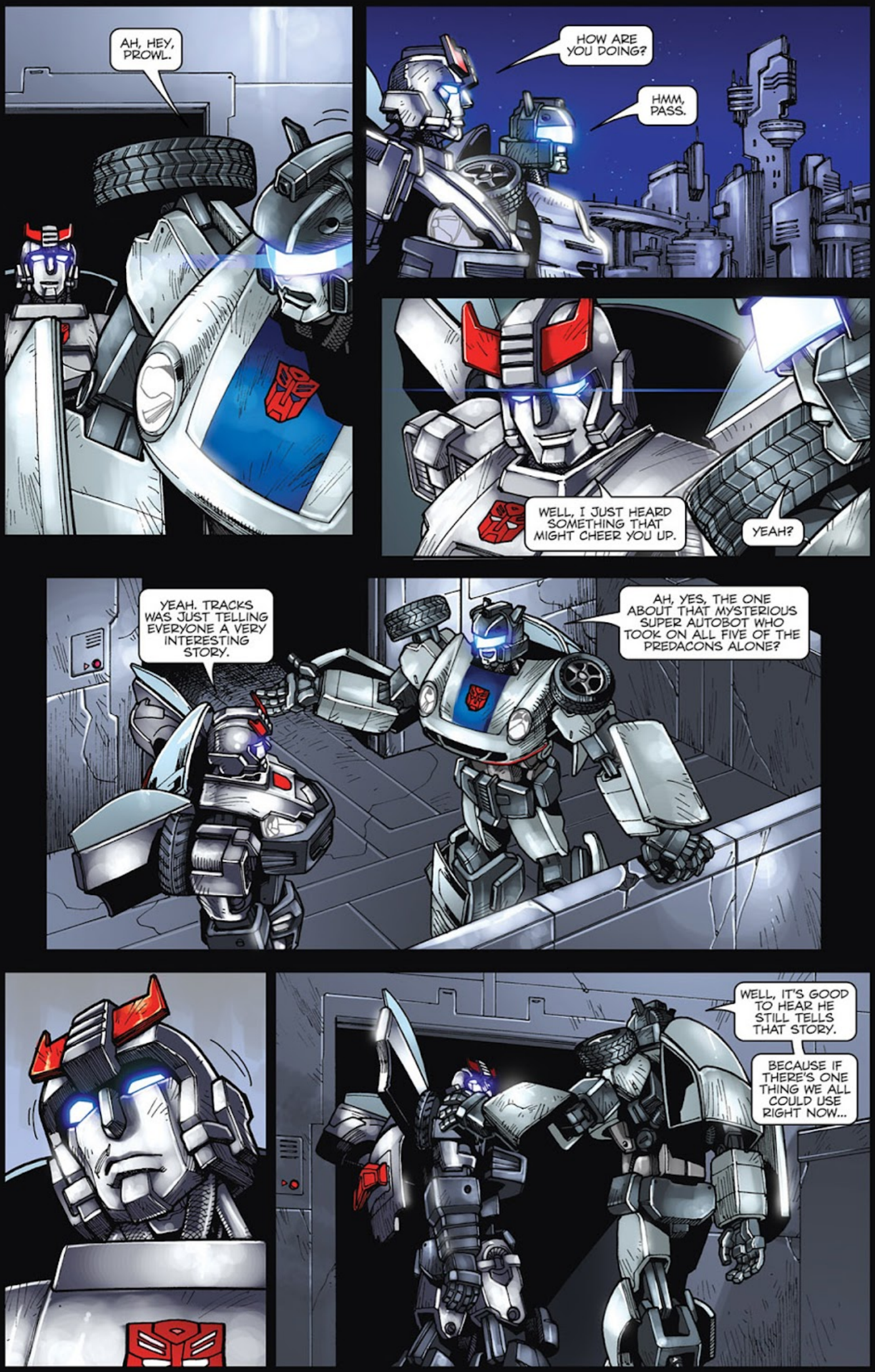

"AND JUST AS QUICKLY AS HE APPEARED IN MY LIFE...
"...HE WAS GONE."
EXCUSE ME, SIR.
THE 'BOT THAT SAVED ME, DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
YEAH, KID. HE GAVE ME A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
HE SAID TO TELL YOU THAT HE WAS JUST AN AUTOBOT...
...JUST LIKE YOU ARE.
"AND NEVER FORGET WHAT THAT MEANS."

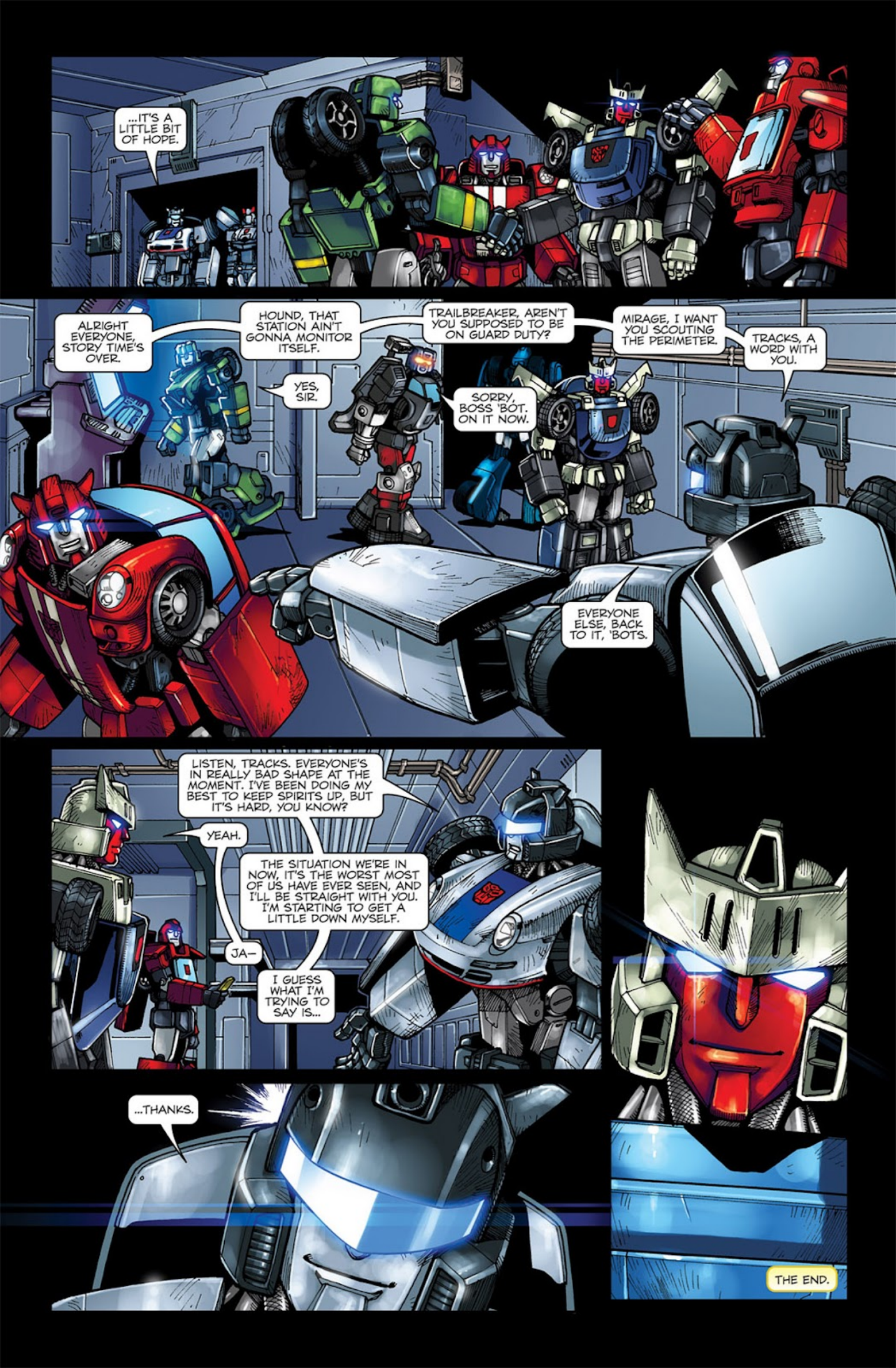
WE'VE ALL SEEN TERRIBLE TIMES, AWFUL THINGS—AND HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES TO WALK AWAY FROM IT ALL...

...BUT WE DIDN'T. AND NEITHER SHOULD WE NOW, BECAUSE WE'RE AUTOBOTS. SO AS LONG AS WE STAY TRUE TO THAT...

...WE'RE NEVER TRULY DEFEATED.

JAZZ?


AH, HEY, PROWL.
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
HMM, PASS.
WELL, I JUST HEARD SOMETHING THAT MIGHT CHEER YOU UP.
YEAH?
YEAH. TRACKS WAS JUST TELLING EVERYONE A VERY INTERESTING STORY.
AH, YES, THE ONE ABOUT THAT MYSTERIOUS SUPER AUTOBOT WHO TOOK ON ALL FIVE OF THE PREDACONS ALONE?
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR HE STILL TELLS THAT STORY.
BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING WE ALL COULD USE RIGHT NOW...


...IT'S A LITTLE BIT OF HOPE.
ALRIGHT EVERYONE, STORY TIME'S OVER.
HOUND, THAT STATION AIN'T GONNA MONITOR ITSELF.
YES, SIR.
TRAILBREAKER, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON GUARD DUTY?
SORRY, BOSS 'BOT. ON IT NOW.
MIRAGE, I WANT YOU SCOUTING THE PERIMETER.
TRACKS, A WORD WITH YOU.
EVERYONE ELSE, BACK TO IT, 'BOTS.
LISTEN, TRACKS. EVERYONE'S IN REALLY BAD SHAPE AT THE MOMENT. I'VE BEEN DOING MY BEST TO KEEP SPIRITS UP, BUT IT'S HARD, YOU KNOW?
YEAH.
THE SITUATION WE'RE IN NOW, IT'S THE WORST MOST OF US HAVE EVER SEEN, AND I'LL BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU. I'M STARTING TO GET A LITTLE DOWN MYSELF.
JA—
I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
...THANKS.
THE END.